No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-352-5-121-1

ZZ
RNR 575
CYPRUS-NIGHTLEAD GREECE

BY NEOCOSMOS ZIALLAS

ATHENS, AUG 6, REUTER -- GREECE IS PREPARED TO DENOUNCE THE [illegible] THREE-POWER AGREEMENT CONSOLIDATING THE CYPRUS CEASEFIRE IF TURKEY CONTINUES TO VIOLATE IT, ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT BROADCAST BY THE STATE-CONTROLLED ATHENS RADIO.

THE STATEMENT ALSO REPORTED IN THE GREEK PRESS, QUOTED OFFICIAL SOURCES AS SAYING THAT GREECE WAS READY TO PROCEED WITH "OTHER STEPS" IF TURKEY FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH GREECE AND BRITAIN JULY 30. THE AGREEMENT CALLED FOR A MILITARY STANDSTILL AND SAID AREAS CONTROLLED BY OPPOSING FORCES SHOULD NOT BE EXTENDED.

THE STATEMENT WAS BROADCAST AFTER REPORTS LAST NIGHT OF NEW TURKISH ADVANCES IN THE KYRENIA AREA, AND OF EXCHANGES OF FIRE ACROSS THE "GREEN LINE" SEPARATING THE GREEK CYPRIOT AND TURKISH CYPRIOT SECTORS OF NICOSIA.

THERE WAS NO FORMAL STATEMENT FROM THE GREEK GOVERNMENT.

DESPITE THE CONCERN OVER TURKISH MILITARY MOVES, THE DECISION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A U.N. BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN THE OPPOSING FORCES ON CYPRUS HAS CREATED A SENSE OF CONFIDENCE AMONG GREEK OFFICIALS.

MORE 1253

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RNR 576
CYPRUS-NIGHTLEAD GREECE 2 ATHENS

THESE OFFICIALS STRESSED, HOWEVER THAT IF -- AFTER THE U.N. PEACE-KEEPING FORCE HAS TAKEN UP ITS POSITIONS -- TURKEY CONTINUES TO VIOLATE THE AGREEMENT, THEN THE GOVERNMENT IN ANKARA WILL BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES.

GREECE MEANWHILE CONTINUED THE GRADUAL DEMOBILIZATION OF ARMED FORCES IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY, BUT MAINTAINED ITS MILITARY BUILD-UP ALONG ITS FRONTIERS WITH TURKEY, IN THRACE AND IN THE AEGEAN ISLANDS.

THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER CONSTANTINE KARAMANLIS LAST NIGHT RESTORED CIVIL LIBERTIES BY REINSTATING THE 1952 CONSTITUTION ALTHOUGH MARTIAL LAW IS RETAINED FOR AS LONG AS THE CYPRUS JURISDICTION OF DEFENSE MINISTER EVANGHELOS AVEROFF-TOSITSAS.

THE DEFENSE MINISTER TODAY DENIED REPORTS THAT THE CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES, GEN. GREGORIOS BONANOS, HAD RESIGNED.

AN AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE SAID IT WOULD BE STRANGE FOR THE GENERAL TO STEP DOWN NOW, SINCE HE WAS ONE OF THE ARMED FORCES LEADERS WHO INITIATED THE DECISION TO END MILITARY RULE AND HAND OVER POWER TO THE POLITICIANS LAST WEEK.

REUTER 1256

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